

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of the claims and their status. Please cancel claims 5-8, 10-12, and 14, and amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An endotracheal intubation device comprising:

an optical housing assembly ~~including~~ having a first end and a second end, a positioning mechanism pivotally attached at said second end, and an elongate flexible image conducting system conductor having a distal end portion and extending from [[a]] said first end of said optical housing assembly[[,]] and a proximal end portion and extending from [[a]] said second end of said optical housing assembly and through a positional viewing mechanism pivotally attached at a first end of said positional viewing positioning mechanism to said second end of said optical housing assembly[[.]];

said image conductor selected from the group consisting of an optical fiber bundle, a digital image conductor, or a combination thereof;

~~Said positional viewing mechanism having at its second end a viewing system at an outer end of said positioning mechanism wherein connected in optical communication with said proximal end portion of said image conductor conducting system optically communicates with said viewing system through said positional viewing mechanism;~~

a detachable scabbard sized to sealably receive a portion of releasably attached at a proximal end on said first end of said optical housing assembly and said image conducting system, wherein said scabbard comprises having a curved structure having distal end portion terminating in a terminal edge surface face; and a plurality of spaced conduits extending through said scabbard wherein: ;

[[i)] a first ~~one of said conduits extends~~ conduit extending longitudinally through said scabbard ~~and has~~ having at least one optically open end at said terminal ~~edge surface~~ face of said scabbard, and said image conductor distal end portion extending through said first conduit;

[[ii)] a second ~~one of said conduits extends~~ conduit extending along an outer surface portion of said scabbard ~~and defines an~~ defined by a serpentine open channel ~~that is~~ having a top opening with inwardly curved portions along its length sized and shaped to removably receive and firmly but releasably engage a range of sizes of an endotracheal tube and ~~comprises~~ having two open ends, one of which opens ~~onto~~ adjacent to said terminal ~~edge surface~~ face of said scabbard to provide a predictable exit point and direction for to facilitate insertion of said endotracheal tube[,]
during intubation [and];

[[iii)] a third ~~one of said conduits extends~~ conduit extending longitudinally through said scabbard and ~~comprises~~ having two open ends, a first open end [of] which opens onto said terminal ~~edge surface~~ face of said scabbard and a port at a second open end of which being adapted ~~to~~ for connection in fluid flow communication to a vacuum or supplemental oxygen providing source; and

[a] an electrical power source and a light source electrically connected [to] with said image ~~conducting system~~ conductor to provide an illuminated area [at] adjacent to said terminal edge ~~surface~~ face of said scabbard ~~from said distal portion of said image conducting system~~ and for transmission of images ~~from~~ of the said illuminated area to said ~~positional viewing mechanism~~ located at said proximal end of said image conducting system.

2. (currently amended) [An] The endotracheal intubation device according to claim 1,
wherein

said scabbard is a blade-like structure formed from a polymer material ~~so as to comprise an~~
~~intubation blade like structure for inserting into a patient's mouth, formed so as to~~ curved generally
~~comprise~~ in the shape of the anatomical contour of a patient's tongue.

3. (currently amended) [An] The endotracheal intubation device according to claim 1, further
comprising:

having a lens sealingly disposed over said at least one optically open end of said first
conduit ~~one of said conduits on said terminal edge surface, and illuminatingly~~ in communication
with said distal end portion of said image ~~conducting system~~ conductor.

4. (currently amended) [An] The endotracheal intubation device according to claim 1,
wherein

said electrical power source ~~electrically connected to said image conducting system~~ is a
battery.

5 through 8 (canceled)

9. (currently amended) [An] The endotracheal intubation device according to claim 1,
wherein

said image ~~conducting system is~~ conductor comprises a digital ~~conducting system~~ image
conductor[.]; and

said viewing system comprises a LCD screen at an outer end of said positioning
mechanism.

10 through 12 (canceled)

13. (currently amended) [An] The endotracheal intubation device according to claim 1,
wherein

said optical housing assembly ~~has an exterior surface with curvature to effectively~~
~~accommodate~~ is sized and shaped to be gripped in the hand ~~grip~~ of an operator.

14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) [An] The endotracheal intubation device according to claim 1, wherein

said scabbard is ~~detachable from said first end of said optical housing assembly and is~~
~~replaceable or~~ disposable.

Please add the following new claim:

16. (new) An endotracheal intubation device comprising:

an optical housing having a first end and a second end, a positioning mechanism pivotally attached at said second end, and an elongate flexible digital image conductor having a distal end portion extending from said first end and a proximal end portion extending from said second end and through said positioning mechanism;

a LCD screen at an outer end of said positioning mechanism connected in optical communication with said proximal end portion of said digital image conductor;

a detachable scabbard releasably attached at a proximal end on said first end of said housing and having a curved distal end portion terminating in a terminal face;

a conductor passageway extending longitudinally through said scabbard having at least one optically open end at said terminal face of said scabbard, and said digital image conductor distal end portion extending through said conductor passageway;

an open endotracheal tube receptacle channel extending along an outer surface portion of said scabbard defined by a serpentine open channel having a top opening with inwardly curved portions along its length sized and shaped to removably receive and firmly but releasably engage a range of sizes of an endotracheal tube and having two open ends, one of which opens adjacent to said terminal face of said scabbard to provide a predictable exit point and direction to facilitate insertion of said endotracheal tube during intubation;

a vacuum/oxygen passageway extending longitudinally through said scabbard having a first open end which opens onto said terminal face of said scabbard and a connection port at a second open end for connection in fluid flow communication to a vacuum or supplemental oxygen providing source; and

an electrical power source and a light source connected with said digital image conductor to provide an illuminated area adjacent to said terminal face of said scabbard and transmission of digital images of the illuminated area to said LCD screen.